

Good morning.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Donna Colavito and I am here with my family to speak regarding Proposed Bill #544. I would like to thank Senator McKinney for introducing this proposed bill and Jaclyn Ferro for all the details involved.

I let my two children miss school today because I thought it was important to let them know that if you feel strongly enough about something being wrong, you should make every effort to constitute change.

Back in November of 2007, my nine-year-old daughter participated in a "Turkey Trot" after school, a PTA sponsored run to promote fitness amongst our children. The CT Post was on the scene and took a picture of my daughter and obtained her personal information from her without my permission. The picture and information was subsequently published within a day or two. My daughter was happy to be a "celebrity".

However, within a day or two, we received a sexually-threatening phone call from a pedophile who had seen her picture and her name in the paper. I am thankful that I picked up the phone that night and not my daughter. Fairfield Police were contacted right away and I am glad to report that the call was traced and the individual responsible was eventually arrested and charged. He is currently in jail facing charges from eight different towns and/or cities.

What bothered me most was that the CT Post was aware that this situation had been going on for many years. Fairfield Police and others had already alerted them to this fact. When we contacted both the Publisher and the President, obviously extremely upset, their attitude was "too bad"; "~~freedom of the press~~". But this is my child.

ITS NOT AGAINST THE LAW,

In a perfect world, this bill would not be necessary. There would be no threats to our children and to their safety. But we don't live in a perfect world. There are people out there whose only intention is to scare or hurt our children for their own pleasure. This is alarming.

I strongly believe that parents should have the right to decide where and when personal information regarding **their** children is published.

Proposed Bill #544 would hold publications accountable if personal information is published without parental and/or guardian consent.

I respectfully ask you to pass this bill.

Thank you.